Bringing Hope Into Every Home!

I n 1902 God clearly revealed to Ellen G. White that our publications are to be used to lighten the earth with the knowledge and glory of Christ and His second coming (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 140).

Literature is a universal means that allows every Seventh-day Adventist to answer God’s call to service. Her pointed counsel for church members was, “to sell or to give away our literature” (Colporteur Ministry, p. 91; italics supplied). The church is experiencing its most critical need ever for LEs and for every believer’s earnest participation in the distribution of books and periodicals.

It is time for the church to distribute truth-filled literature as never before.

“The great and wonderful work of the last gospel message is to be carried on now as it has never been before. . . . through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals” (Colporteur Ministry, p. 145; italics supplied).

1. Build up the LE force.
2. Develop new methods of marketing and evangelism.
3. Provide professional training programs for LEs.
4. Inspire effective leadership through enhanced training.
5. Enhance product development to meet church needs.
6. Strengthen publishing house and ABC/HHES operations.
7. To ac -...
Great Hope Project Gains Momentum

Ever since *The Great Hope* was launched as missionary book of the year for 2012 and 2013, the East-Central Africa Division (ECD) has experienced tremendous gains. This project started slowly within the ECD territory, but that has since changed. And the slow but sure steps in advancing this project are beginning to bear fruit.

Early on, members and leaders entertained questions such as: “How will the project take place?” “Which version of the book will be used?” “How many translations will be available?” “What will the price be?” “How will church members make them available to the public?”

After a dedication ceremony at the ECD headquarters, many waited eagerly for the books to arrive. *The Great Hope* is now available in English, French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, and Amharic; books in other languages are expected to be available soon.

Several launching events have taken place in churches around the division. Local churches are placing their orders and have made plans to reach out to their territories. Departmental directors and institution heads are working together for mass distribution of the books. Soon we will begin to count the results, some of which will never be known this side of eternity.

Tanzania Union Conducts LE Institute

More than 400 literature evangelists (LEs) gathered in Bujumbura, Dodoma, a city in central Tanzania, for a five-day Literature Evangelist Institute held in January 2013. Davis E. Fue, Tanzania Union executive secretary and former Publishing director, presented the opening words and introduced Daniel Garu, a guest speaker from the Adventist University of Africa. Tanzania is one of the countries in Africa with the highest number of LEs. It has more than 2,700 committed, dynamic literature evangelists.

The event was characterized by inspirational messages from the main speaker, as well as presentations from local conference presidents and other guests. In addition to sharing testimonies, attendees joined in meaningful singing.

Burundi Union Conducts LE Institute

Jethron Nbibiaremye, Burundi Union president, led out in the opening ceremony of the first Literature Evangelist Institute held in the Burundi Union. December 13, 2012, was a joyous occasion. There has been tremendous growth in almost all aspects of God’s work in the Burundi Union, as witnessed by its recent change of the guard to the Burundi Association.

During four days, more than 60 literature evangelists gathered in Bujumbura, Burundi’s capital city. In a celebrative mood they recounted the joys of their work. Speakers included the East-Central Africa Division Publishing director and Grace Manongi, ECD Publishing Association manager. They encouraged the servants of the Lord not to give up, but to be faithful to the very end.

The participants experienced love, joy, and commitment as they sang and shared stories.

Changing of the Guard

I used to visit a school in Kampala known as Greenhill Academy. The school’s principal and all the teachers knew me and were my friends. However, one morning I met a security officer I did not know. He would not allow me to enter. How will I sell books without showing them copies? Lord, please help me.

I went straight to the school principal, who had said before that he wanted to see my books. He gave me a note to give to the security guard that would allow me to bring my books with me. When I finished my sales for the day, I had to leave and pass through that very same gate. The same officer shouted at me, saying he did not want me to sell books there. I did not know what to do, so I simply prayed about it. When I went back to the school he welcomed me, but I could tell he was not happy.

The next time I went back to the school, I realized the security guard had been re-assigned, and another guard welcomed me warmly.

I praise the Lord for His intervention.
The Great Controversy in Kazakhstan

A dedication ceremony for the various languages within the union in which The Great Controversy is being translated was held recently in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The book is now available in Tadzhik, Turkmen, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, and Kazakh.

Rubin R. Ott, Southern Union Mission president, shared these thoughts from God’s Word: “How will we spread our message? The Bible opens a way for us in the book of Acts: with the Holy Spirit’s power, through the influence of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Freddy Alvarado, Southern Union Mission Publishing director, shared statistics about spreading the missionary book of the year in the entire world.

Leaders from several missions and fields shared testimonies from church members who had distributed the missionary book of the year. At the end of the dedication service, ministers and lay members knelt around the various translations of The Great Controversy and offered a prayer of blessing for the missionary book. Ministers raised their hands and asked the Lord to pour out His Spirit, His mercy, and His blessings.

The Great Controversy, missionary book of the year for 2012-2013, ends with the words: “God is love.” The Southern Union Mission is committed in sharing this message with as many inhabitants of the region as possible. Maranatha!

In 2012 the Euro-Asia Division (ESD) conducted its first division-wide Publishing Council and Publishing Administrative Seminar. Led by Guillermo E. Biaggi, ESD president, the seminar was attended by all union, conference, and mission presidents. The council covered many important topics, including new division Publishing Ministries policies. The Publishing Administrative Seminar focused on the mission of the Publishing Ministry and strategies for greater success. The seminar was conducted by Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing Ministries director; Pavel I. Liberanskiy, ESD Publishing Ministries director; and Iacob Pop, manager of the Life and Health Romanian Adventist Publishing House.

Progress in Pictures

In 2012 a group of church members traveled to cities and villages where there are no Seventh-day Adventists to distribute Christian books and pamphlets (right); literature evangelists share the gospel in Siberia (bottom).

Student literature evangelists (LEs) from the Euro-Asia Division use creative methods to sell books and magazines. In addition to traditional door-to-door methods, the LEs have developed approaches that cater to the lifestyle of today’s busy consumers.

In Ukraine, student LEs incorporated bicycles in their canvassing experience (top); other students canvass people in a train (middle).

Student LEs in the Caucasus use kayaks to visit homes that are otherwise inaccessible (bottom).

Praise the Lord for guiding our young people and using them to fulfill God’s end-time mission before His soon Second Coming.
The Great Controversy Distributed in Mexico City

In February 2012 The Great Controversy was distributed in the Azteca Mexican Conference in Mexico City and its surrounding areas. More than 9,000 Seventh-day Adventist church members participated in distributing 20,000 books to the 19 districts of the Azteca Mexican Conference. The event was joyful, as our believers had waited a long time for bulk copies of this precious book by Ellen G. White to become available. Nearly all church members participated in the book distribution.

In some places, the people who received The Great Controversy immediately started reading, surprised at the information it contained. Most of the people who received it were members of the Roman Catholic faith. By the end of the event, 410 interests were received and 230 people enrolled to study The Great Controversy and the Bible.

Sister Zempoaltecatl was baptized as a result of this campaign. She is now a member of the Padierna Seventh-day Adventist church. Praise the Lord!●

Top: Church members who gathered to distribute The Great Controversy.
Bottom: Sister Zempoaltecatl, who was converted through the Great Controversy Project (GCP), is pictured with Misael Escalante Maza (right), the pastor who baptized her.

A major event took place in the Inter-American Division on August 25, 2012. A total of 925 households received copies of The Great Controversy. Most of the activity happened on Sabbath. Other, smaller areas had already been visited. A group from the United States supported us in our Sabbath evangelistic effort.

The three churches that I pastor coordinated the event, with support from 10 or 12 other congregations. The total number of people present for the distribution of books was approximately 250, divided into several groups in order to cover the most territory.

The books were distributed in Cataño and the Levittown area of Toa Baja, Puerto Rico. The total number of books distributed is 13,000. The Great Controversy Project (GCP) emphasizes that every household receive a book. By distributing 13,000 books we managed to reach 13,000 homes in our community.

The event was organized in detail and presented to every church board. Personal Ministries directors from each church were in charge of organizing the event. The project was promoted and most church members participated by donating money to buy books. The event was preceded by 40 days of prayer, and we chose one day before the event for members to fast, if they wished to do so.

A leader was chosen for each area. Leaders had a number of members assigned to them, and the leader’s responsibility was to know the area and instruct his group in delivering one book to each home.

Two buses with loudspeakers played Christian music that both motivated members and created interest among the public.

The church in Levittown began delivering books at 3:30 in the afternoon, and finished at 11:30 that night. Each of the 13,000 books was delivered in just eight hours. Surely, the Lord was with us.

This activity has been a blessing to our churches, which have been involved at every stage of the project. Most of the members of the three churches have been involved in distributing books.

This project injected spiritual energy into the churches. Many people participated both financially and in distributing books, resulting in countless positive experiences.

We continue to visit homes, asking those who live there if they have read The Great Controversy. This has opened doors for further conversations.

We plan to invite these neighbors for future campaigns that will deal with issues related to the content of The Great Controversy.

Praise the Lord, to whom we owe all the glory.●

Top: Part of the team responsible for organizing and preparing copies of The Great Controversy to be distributed.
Bottom: Some of the church members who delivered books listen to final instructions before going out to visit as many homes as possible.
Waldensian Youth

Waldensian Youth is a program started recently in Romania. Youth and young adult volunteers have participated and been blessed by this new project. Bringing hope to people has so influenced literature evangelism that volunteer and professional literature evangelist (LE) teams are working together to spread the gospel. In 2012 about 120 student LEs shared the printed gospel with people. Waldensian Youth participants conduct health check-ups, sell health and spiritual literature, and lead people to Christ. They are pictured preparing for the project through Bible study.

Portuguese Challenge

Portuguese literature evangelists (LEs) had a difficult time in 2012. Because of the European financial crisis, sales went down so much that many LEs did not earn enough to make a living. However, creative ideas and standing together has proven beneficial.

Andorra: Spanish Connection

Andorra is a small state in central Europe, "squeezed" between France and Spain. Although mission work is restricted, enthusiastic missionaries have started conducting outreach programs. With good training and creative projects in the Spanish Union, literature evangelism is searching for other ways to develop.

A Year of Blessings: An Experience of Trust

The year 2012 was challenging and at the same time blessed. Because of the continued financial crisis in Europe, selling literature in some countries has become difficult, and the sacrifice of our literature evangelists (LEs) is great. Nevertheless we thank God for what we have: dedicated LEs who are ambassadors of health and spiritual healing, and people who support the Publishing work in the Inter-European Division.

Sales: Being Professional

Today’s habits are different, but peoples’ needs are the same. Topping this list is health and spirituality.

Growth: Growing as Disciples

Most important is our preparation for heaven. Books help people grow as Christians.

Mission: Sharing Faith

Using opportunities to contact people willing to be led to Christ.

Austrian Union

The year 2012 will be remembered as a year of diverse accomplishments.

A literature evangelist (LE) family retreat showed new motivation and support for the LE ministry.

A literature ministry campaign near Vienna, and a training session and sales campaign in Graz have given new tools and inspiration to full-time literature evangelists.

Through a regular newsletter, LEs are sharing their personal experiences and encouraging each other in mission-oriented literature evangelism.

Austrian LE ministry is working closely with the Swiss literature ministry, which has experienced a leadership change. Dominik Maurer is the new LE director, a creative and determined pastor with a background in literature evangelism.

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Bulgaria: Re-launch

Last year was a challenging one for the Bulgarian Publishing Ministry. Nevertheless, God blessed its efforts. New publishing leaders are doing a good job, a Literature Ministry school recently started, and Bulgaria plans to translate The Great Controversy newsletter into Bulgarian.

In October 2012, literature evangelists attended the first Literature Ministry Seminary training session in Bulgaria. They hold copies of The Great Controversy they will be distributing.

Inter-European

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The GCP in Texas | by Esteban Griguol, Southwestern Union HHES Advisor

We are excited about the world-wide project of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to distribute *The Great Controversy*. We started with a plan to distribute 1 million books throughout the Texas Conference during 2012 and 2013. By the grace of God, and the efforts of all involved, we have distributed more than 800,000 copies of *The Great Controversy*: 300,000 copies of the full edition and 500,000 of *The Great Hope*. Praise God! We are revising our goal and planning to distribute another million copies in 2013.

We have heard many powerful experiences and testimonies about how God is touching hearts through *The Great Controversy*. Many Adventists, even non-Adventists, are buying books to give to friends and relatives.

A Muslim from Houston was so impressed with *The Great Controversy* that he bought an additional 200 copies from the literature evangelist to give to his family and friends. An evangelical pastor in Houston bought enough books to give to all his church members. There are many other positive experiences, and we encourage everyone to continue sharing *The Great Controversy*. It is a key book for this time.

Although we are already seeing some results of the distribution, the greatest results will be seen when the Latter Rain is poured out. To have a great harvest, we have to sow many seeds. Through this project, we are doing the biggest seeding in the history of our church around the world.

Northeastern Conference | by William K. Koomson, HHES Advisor

In 2012, literature evangelists in the Northeastern Conference of the Atlantic Union provided ministry support in 50 separate churches. Their support included participation in evangelistic revivals, preaching appointments, evangelistic series, publishing rallies, recruitments, book displays, and canvassing programs in both summer and winter.

Our program featured 120 literature evangelists (LEs)—65 regular LEs and 55 student LEs. They delivered US$701,957 worth of books and saw 201 contacts baptized. Praise the Lord! •

Columbia Union | by Rick Christman, FHES and HHES Advisor

We praise God for His continual blessing of the literature evangelism ministry in the Columbia Union. Last summer more than 100 young people served God in the Mid-Atlantic region as frontline missionaries through literature evangelism and Bible work.

One of the highlights from this past summer included a magabook team and Bible worker that partnered with a Seventh-day Adventist church in Dover, Delaware. Together they conducted an evangelism cycle that resulted in eight baptisms, with 12 more people preparing to be baptized. Through the faithful work of more than 80 full- and part-time literature evangelists, at least one church has been planted and sales have increased approximately 20 percent over the year before.

Through the Giving Light to Our World (GLOW) tract ministry, thousands of church members have adopted sharing their love for Jesus as part of their lifestyle. As a result of distributing more than 500,000 GLOW tracts in 2012, more than 100 people have contacted local conferences to inquire about receiving Bible studies or more information about GLOW tracts. •

Canadian Union | by Jonathan Zita, HHES Director

A lot of exciting things happened in 2012, including obtaining charitable status and a new name for the Canada Literature Ministry: Lifestyle Canada Education Service. Canada always runs a strong student program based on the distribution of magabooks, yet many people ask for something digital. To meet this need my associate, Ramalho Gayle, and I, in partnership with It Is Written Canada, developed the first mediabook—a combination of DVDs and small books in one package. With this mediabook people can listen, watch, or read. The first mediabook is called 24 Days to Realistic Health and Healing, and is part of the iHeal program. The emphasis is to train adult literature evangelists as healthy lifestyle coaches in helping individuals achieve better health of body, mind, and spirit.

The GLOW initiative emphasizes literature distribution for all members. This is something that Canadian conferences are excited about, along with the Integrated Literature Evangelism program in each church. The latter focuses on incorporating literature evangelists with local churches as part of a nine-month evangelism program.

The Canada Youth Challenge focuses on what we believe to be the three main aspects of a person—body, mind, and spirit. Participants seek to meet felt needs by listening to people they meet and by being an emotional support. Last summer nearly 100 youth joined in giving people the opportunity to get to know Jesus better and prepare for His soon return. Praise God! •

Student literature evangelists from the Southwestern Union gather for training and inspiration.

By William K. Koomson, HHES Advisor

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When the Great Controversy Project (GCP) was first proposed in Japan, the response was lukewarm. The Great Controversy seemed too Christian for mass distribution to the secular culture of Japan. Not simply because of the unpopularity of Christianity in general, but because of the negative influence of religious sects that have been banned from churches throughout the entire country of Japan. Thirty thousand sets of *The Great Hope* were distributed.

One church member met his business colleagues for lunch. While waiting for their food, he took some copies of *The Great Hope* from his pocket and handed them to his friends. The title of the first chapter, “Why Is There Suffering?” instantly sparked a conversation. In the middle of the exchange, a customer decided to enroll her son in an Adventist high school, which she did a few weeks later.

At one church, members decided to visit churches of other denominations with *The Great Hope*. They visited one of the churches on a Wednesday morning and knocked on the door while a meeting was in session. The woman who answered the door refused to receive a copy of *The Great Hope*. But as the Adventists were about to drive away, another woman rushed out and apologized on behalf of the other woman, who was a pastor. The woman who apologized was a lay member. She asked for a copy and seemed eager to read it.

At another non-Adventist church the pastor’s wife accepted *The Great Hope* hesitantly. But when Adventists visited the same church with another copy in the series, the woman welcomed them warmly and accepted another pamphlet in the series. It seems that prior to this she had read, and was impressed, with Messages to Young People by Ellen G. White, so she was happy to receive another book by the same author.

Church members have been encouraged to participate in the Great Controversy Project by reading the book, praying seven days a week at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., reading one chapter of the Bible each day according to Revelation by Dr. Word, and supporting the campaign systematically by handing books and pamphlets out at worship services to members and guests. Bible study courses, taught by the pastor, were offered on Saturday evenings. Attendance has been good. Newly interested people are attending, and some members, long absent, are coming back to church.

At another church, members were encouraged to make their own distribution lists with people’s name, occupation, and religion. Members were asked to pray then distribute copies of *The Great Hope* to the people on their list. Then every month, between the Sabbath school and the divine service, they feature testimonies about the program to encourage others.

One woman, a Buddhist, came to the church and found new light about Satan and evil. She asked for prayer to be delivered from the power of evil. One woman who received a copy of *The Great Hope* confided with a church member that she had been troubled with fears and worries. As a result of this contact she asked for Bible studies.

The distribution lists have now become prayer lists, so that church members can continue praying for the people who received *The Great Hope*. Without the Great Controversy Project, these new contacts would never have been made. These encounters, made by our members through the GCP, are not outstanding stories. But they do encourage us as we live in the last days before the second coming of Jesus Christ.

### Korean Lay Member in China

"Unorganized territory" is a term used often by Adventists in China. Not because Adventist churches in China are not organized (they are organized differently from those in the rest of the world), but because the church is expected to engage in the three-self movement: self-governing, self-evangelizing, and self-supporting, thus expelling foreigners. Government regulations prohibit the selling of religious books from house to house. It is perceived by the Chinese government as enticing or forcing religion on people.

Nevertheless, Mr. Kim did not give up. He continued sharing the stories and experiences he had as a literature evangelist with people he met. As if in answer to his prayers, three young Chinese came to assist him in sharing his stories, and members to witness. People interested in being trained started coming from Beijing, Qingdao, Tianjin, and Guangzhou. Mr. Kim has asked the Chinese Union to assist him in leading programs and seminars, and in keeping government regulations as good citizens in order to follow the gospel commission and bring hope into every home.

Some of those who attended Mr. Kim’s training program said they had attended the church for seven years, but this was the first time that they learned to bless others this way. Mr. Kim now knows people waiting to be trained, but he does not have sufficient means to support a program. He knows that God will provide for China in His own way. For him, training 500 people is no longer a dream, but a reality waiting to be realized.

With humble members like Mr. Kim, the Adventist church will be blessed in the training of members and will grow in grace to serve others.
The South American Division (SAD) has taken the distribution of missionary books as one of its main methods for rallying members and participating in the church’s mission. Over the last seven years, Adventist churches have been encouraged to share our literature in the streets, by going from door-to-door.

In 2012 this idea took on larger magnitude with The Great Hope. SAD leaders wanted to place one copy of The Great Hope in every single house in our territory, roughly 70 million homes in the South American Division. It was a huge task, but administrators and members accepted the challenge and committed to distribute 70 million books in 2012 and 2013.

With this challenge in mind, they began to promote the project, organizing to achieve this goal. Computer software was developed to help in the process of mapping areas street-by-street, house-by-house. Church members were then given a map of a small area where they would be responsible for delivering books. This continues in each conference and church in the SAD.

On Sabbath, March 24, 2012, a great mobilization took place in all SAD churches. Called Impacto Esperança (Hope Impact), church members received a map, materials, orientation, and a brief devotional, then went out to hand out The Great Hope. More than 20 million books were distributed that day alone. In São Paulo, Brazil, nearly 80,000 members distributed almost 4 million books.

The Adventist Church has a presence in most of the cities in South America, and members had an unforgettable experience. Many of them went home happy with the contacts they made, the prayers that were said, and the experiences they had. Conversions are happening in all our churches and cities; true miracles of conversion are taking place all around.

To follow-up a request made by the South American Division, the Brazil Adventist University in São Paulo (UNASP) designed a Master’s in Business Administration (MBA) in leadership program, exclusively for Publishing directors.

On January 7, 2013, a group of 40 directors and associate directors started taking the MBA course.

This master’s program in leadership was designed to meet the needs of our ministry by training and preparing Publishing directors for more effective service. This is an official MBA, with a total of 600 hours of classes, and is recognized by Brazil’s Education Ministry.

Our desire is that all directors and associate directors participate in this MBA program in the next three years. Church administration is supporting and subsidizing the cost of the program to demonstrate its support for the Publishing Ministry.

The canvassing program for student literature evangelists (LEs) is fundamental and strategically important for the Publishing Ministry in the South American Division (SAD). Nearly 10,000 students regularly canvass during their summer and winter vacations. They are responsible for 46 percent of all book sales in the SAD.

The SAD understands that student canvassing is important for three main reasons:

• It gives students the opportunity to earn the funds they need to continue their studies.
• In addition to book sales, LEs give Bible studies, pray for interested individuals, and strengthen congregations.
• It is an effective process for training pastors and church leaders.

There are 12 institutions of higher education in seven different countries of the South American Division. With the goal of supporting those three purposes, the SAD has created a university center called Instituto de Desenvolvimento do Estudante Colportor (Institute for the Development of Student Literature Evangelists/IDEC).

The IDC exists to recruit, motivate, train, inspire, and develop students interested in becoming LEs during their summer vacations and/or school breaks. The IDC has an office inside the school campus and one full-time Publishing director working exclusively with the students.
South Pacific

LE Evangelistic Program

Delphine Harris, a literature evangelist (LE) area manager in New Zealand, ran an evangelistic program in La Foa with her team of dedicated LES and myself. La Foa is about 130 kilometers (81 miles) northwest of the capital city of Noumea, New Caledonia. The program was requested by High Chief Berge Kawa, grandson of the last king of New Caledonia. High Chief Berge Kawa was so impressed with the program that he wants to build a Seventh-day Adventist church in his village. He also offered land on which to build a Literature Ministry Training Centre.

God’s presence was felt, and seeds that will reap a harvest were sown. Praise God!

Queenie had just moved from New Zealand to South Hedland when she came across an abandoned HHES Family Bible. The Bible had been left behind by whoever lived in the house before she did. Queenie started using the study helps in the back of the Bible, and became convinced that she should worship on the seventh-day Sabbath. However, she thought all churches worshipped on Sunday.

Then she met Clint and Julie, two literature evangelists. Queenie shared her story with them, and Clint was more than happy to assure her that there was a group of Sabbath keepers in town. He invited her to worship with the Port Hedland Seventh-day Adventist Church family. We praise God for every message book He has placed into homes that reach the heart of a searching soul. God has promised: “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

Abandoned Bible Leads Seeker to Sabbath

John Brereton, Publishing Director | South Pacific

70 Bible Studies in Two Days

by Delphine Harris, Literature Evangelist Area Manager

Fanny Brotherson signed 70 people up for Bible studies in two days. On March 12 she attained 55 inscriptions for Bible studies, and the next day 15 people signed up.

She canvassed the island of Huahine with the French tract Sentinelle. Let’s praise the Lord!

Jump Start Experience

by Sarah Ind, Literature Evangelist

Queenie and Clint with the Bible she found.

One Friday, as I was about to finish canvassing for the day, I met a man who seemed depressed. We talked for a while and he accepted a copy of Steps to Christ. I asked if he would be interested in meeting my pastor for a chat. It seems he didn’t have anyone to talk to, and he agreed to a meeting.

I prayed that he would get to know God, but when I contacted him later to arrange for a meeting, I found out it was not God he wanted to know! Even though I still had houses to visit on that street, I did not want to go back to the area. I felt uncomfortable, and did not want to run into the man.

The next morning I read, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). I decided to finish canvassing the street and to stick to my system. After an unsuccessful half hour I met Pathma and Jan, who seemed happy to see me. Jan said, “God must have sent you back! We need those experiences get in the way of reaching other people. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).
Pastor Becomes an Adventist

On June 16, 2012, the Thswane East Seventh-day Adventist (TESDA) Church joined the rest of the churches in the Southern Africa Union to distribute The Great Hope. A wife of a Rhema church pastor received the book and read it. She was so impressed by the book’s message that she urged her husband to read it. Before receiving and reading the book they had watched a DVD by an Adventist preacher, so they were no longer a Hindu. They attended the meetings. At the conclusion of the meetings, the leaders requested to distribute it. The pastor’s wife communicated with a TESDA Church elder through the contact information at the back of The Great Hope. By Sabbath, June 30, the family had started worshipping at the TESDA Church.

In the former pastor’s remarks during an interview, he said that the message given to Seventh-day Adventists is special and unfamiliar to many religious groups. He challenged Adventists during Sabbath school to value their message. He said that perhaps some Adventists take the message for granted because they were born in the church; while others, because of being too familiar with the message have become complacent.

“After preaching all these years in another church, it was not easy making the decision to join another denomination,” he said. “But the truth was too strong for me to remain where I was.”

Other clergy have asked him if he will now be a better Christian. He replies, “If it is a sin to lie and commit adultery, I am not now a stable Christian.”

He and her husband found themselves in a situation in which their child ended up in hospital on life support. Doctors asked the prayers of the child. Her mother contacted relatives to come and comfort her. While struggling with this dilemma, she received The Great Hope. Upon reading the book she made up her mind to return to Christ. She started attending the Golden Harvest Seventh-day Adventist Church and started praying for her. She decided to cling to the hope given by the life of Jesus Christ.

Grace at Work

In the Luapula Zambia Field, Zambia Union, the Lord called a literature evangelist (LE) who cannot read or write. She explains that she experiences God’s grace daily. Almost all the books she sells are in English, but she cannot even read her mother tongue. She describes how she takes a book and kneels to pray, so that the Lord may sell the book through her. After selling the book she returns to the customer two weeks later to find out what the customer learned by reading it. She then uses whatever the customer tells her as her selling points for other customers. She asks her customers to fill out the contract pad for her, even entering the amount they have to pay. She indicates that she cannot really say whether she is being cheated by her customers. She experiences God’s grace at work daily in her life.

The Great Hope Brings Hindu’s Wife Back to Christ

The Golden Harvest Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Africa decided to share copies of The Great Hope in preparation for an evangelistic campaign. A book fell in the hands of a woman who had left the Seventh-day Adventist church as a teenager and married a Hindu in an act of rebellion against the Christian faith. She and her husband found themselves in a situation in which their child ended up in the hospital on life support. Doctors asked the prayers of the child. Her mother concluded there was nothing left to do but to pull the plug. They had already tried Hindu rituals to no avail. They then agreed on the date to return to Christ. She started attending the Golden Harvest Seventh-day Adventist Church and started praying for her. She decided to cling to the great hope given by the life of Jesus Christ.

The Golden Harvest Seventh-day Adventist Church

Leadership Training

SID

The Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) had a division-wide academy for Publishing leaders in South Africa. Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing director, was the main speaker. Conference and union Publishing directors, as well as ABC/HHES managers and coordinators, attended the meetings. At the conclusion of the meetings, the leaders requested to have this structured training annually, so they can be better-equipped leaders.

SAU

The Southern Africa Union (SAU) took an action during its 2012 Executive Committee to align with division Publishing policy. As a result of this action, local conference Publishing directors are now on conference payroll, and literature evangelists will have their service records kept at local conferences. This also means that union Publishing directors are now under union authority, and the ABC/HHES is a ministry of the union, not an independent institution.

ANGOLA

The SID Publishing director conducted a Publishing Administrative Seminar at the Southern Angola Union head-quarters in Huambo, Angola. The seminar was attended by leaders of both conferences and unions. The meeting ended with division of the HHES/ABC assets to enable each of the unions to run their own Publishing programs.

Manuel Pacheco, South-Western Angola Union president, and Passmore Hachalanga, North-Eastern Angola Union president, were instrumental in the amicable conclusion. Angola is increasing in influence in the world; it needs our prayers.
Derald Bhengra, a member from the Delhi Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Delhi, India, is passionate about the Great Controversy Project. He encouraged Adventists in the Northern India Union to distribute The Great Hope.

“I feel that this is a great opportunity for all of us to be a witness for the Lord by sharing this great hope with our friends and loved ones,” Bhengra said. “The book costs 15 rupees, and you can place your order or help the Adventist Church raise funds to witness to others by contacting your local pastors or section/region officials.”

In February 2013, free copies of The Great Hope were available to interested members from the Delhi Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Great Hope in Northern India

The Great Hope in Southwest India

On September 29, 2012, the first copy of Valiya Prathyasha (The Great Hope)—the abridged version of Ellen G. White’s celebrated book, The Great Controversy—was released by Benedict Biswas, SUD Publishing director. The book was presented at the fourth general convention conducted at Neyyattinkara Municipal Stadium in Kerala, India. Calvin Joshua, Oriental Watchman Publishing House manager, also attended.

In addition to church members, school staff, and South Kerala Section office staff, Southwest Asia Union leaders were present to witness the event.

Biswas delivered an inspiring message to the audience gathered. The Southwest India Union printed 10,000 copies of this book. We praise God for His guidance!

The Great Hope in Brazil

An outreach ministry group also distributed copies of The Great Hope, as well as Bibles, in and around Delhi. Praise the Lord!
Stabilize the Local Church Publishing Ministries

With the support of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) Publishing Ministries Department, each union/conference conducted a local church Publishing seminar in its respective field. The SSD Publishing director attended more than 20 of these seminars in 2012. One of the emphases was the implementation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual (2010 edition) recommendation for the appointment of a local publishing coordinator in each church every year. The role and function of this office were presented, as well as the essential role played by Publishing Ministries in the nurture and evangelism of the local church.

Our Hope Impact (phase 3) motivated church members to distribute 10 million copies of the leaflet Hope Beyond the Grave in November 2012. The last page of the tract advertised The Great Hope. Hundreds responded by calling and asking for a free copy. This was the third time church members joined workers in distributing literature.

In 2012 Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing director, conducted a seminar/workshop about how to run and administer the Publishing Department in each local conference/mission, particularly in the Philippines. More than 300 Publishing supervisors who direct groups of literature evangelists attended the Academy for the Development of Publishing Leaders. Wilmer Hirle, General Conference associate Publishing director; and Vivencio R. Bermudez, Southern Asia-Pacific Division Publishing director; visited and evaluated the four publishing houses in the division. Hirle presented each publishing house with a “tree,” showing its roots, and emphasizing the importance of Publishing in distributing Adventist publications “like the leaves of autumn.”

Bring Home the Glory!

In 2012 Vivencio R. Bermudez, Publishing Director | Southern Asia-Pacific

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New Methods of Marketing

In Thailand, literature evangelists (LEs) display Seventh-day Adventist publications in public places, such as schools and market places. People in this Buddhist culture are more likely to see displays that seem like businesses and purchase publications from them. Because of the language barrier, going door-to-door is a challenging approach. Some LEs board ships that are docked in the harbor to canvass the crew, most of whom are foreigners. Their orders are then shipped to their home addresses.

One Church, One Literature Evangelist is promoted in every Publishing seminar. The year 2012 saw a 9 percent increase in full-time literature evangelists (LEs), and 17 percent increase of student LEs. Last summer a group of 30 students from Mountain View College worked in Metro Manila and had the highest sales performance ever by student LEs. Sales totaled $52,300.

South Philippine Union Publishing leaders started an Integrated Publishing Ministerial Seminar on the conference/mission levels. The Ministerial Association invited local church head elders to attend the three-day seminar to study the Church Manual and discuss their leadership responsibilities in terms of their support of the Publishing work. After the seminar many of them expressed an interest in becoming part-time literature evangelists.

Publishing seminar held in Romblon.

Adventist books are shown at a fair (above) and an HHEs booth in Vietnam (right).
Trans-European

TED LE Summary

Because of a law in place in many European countries, the Trans-European Division (TED) has organized literature evangelist (LE) programs in only five of the 14 unions and fields. Despite the small numbers of LEs—about 130—a great work was done in 2012:

- Books and magazines sold: 67,652
- Free literature distributed: 87,381
- Homes visited: 73,328
- Prayers offered: 1,405
- Bible study interests: 1,783
- People baptized: 1
- Total sales: $2,015,509
- Two more student LE clubs will form in 2013, significantly increasing the figures above.

LEs encountered countless miracles while working. We praise God for His blessings! ●

From 22 to 6,200 Krones | by Jeremiah Chiebana, Student LE, Norway

It was a normal day full of challenges and uninterested people. At one home I finally sold a copy of Healthy Foods. Then I realized I didn’t have enough change, so I promised to return with 22 Norwegian Krones (about US$4) before 9:00 that evening. The woman reluctantly agreed, probably not expecting me to return. But I honored my promise and returned with her change.

The following Sunday afternoon family after family admitted that we have a fascinating student literature evangelism program. Still, no one seemed interested enough to purchase anything. At one home, just as I was beginning my canvass, the woman said, “Your name is Jeremiah, from Kenya. Please come in. I am Marit.”

I was surprised. Where did she know me from? I did not recall meeting her. But literature evangelists talk to many people; maybe she was a member of the church, or knew someone from the office who told her about a Kenyan named Jeremiah. I was curious but glad to find a friendly face.

“I might at least sell a copy of Healthy Foods,” I thought. The woman’s husband and children welcomed me. We talked and laughed, but I began wondering, “When will they ask me to show them my books?”

Then Marit said, “My sister, Sylvi, informed me about the 22 NOK you brought back to her last Tuesday. She thought you would assume the amount was so small you would never return. But this shows you can be trusted with greater responsibilities when you go back to Kenya. I know the Norwegian Publishing House is a good company, and I always reserve some money every summer for the student who comes to my door.”

They bought two books and promised to buy more books later. As my colleague and I continued canvassing, I realized the woman had encouraged all her neighbors and relatives in the area to buy books.

[Continued on p. 27]

The Great Hope in TED Countries

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

The plan is to launch the Great Hope Project within this territory in October 2013. Literature evangelists are seen as frontline workers distributing magazines, whereas the focus of church members will be to concentrate on reaching their families, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Norway

Norway focuses their LE activities and programs on two main areas:

- A summer student LE program hosts about 60 university students, mostly from East Africa. The success of this program has led the Trans-European Division (TED) to organize two new student LE clubs in 2013. TED aims to reach $2 million in total sales by the end of the year through this program.
- Norway plans to increase the number of LEs that work either full-time or part-time. A number of seminars were organized in 2012 for those interested in canvassing in southern Norway. The seminars will continue throughout 2013 to cover the northern part of the country.

Serbia

Serbia plans to present books at different fairs and events in its territory, in addition to its regular distribution of books. During the summer months, booths will be placed on popular picnic areas and beaches.

They started the year by sharing 2,000 copies of Prepared (Revival), donated by the Serbian Publishing House. The books were distributed during the community project The Street of Open Heart in Belgrade.

Through several distribution chains, books with the Adventist message are now present in 70 percent of bookshops throughout Serbia. Some editions will find a place on the shelves of public libraries as well.

Books can also be purchased on Amazon and Adventist Book Center Web sites. In addition, different devotional books in Serbian are now available for smart phones.

Miroslav Pujic, Publishing Director | Trans-European

I sold more than 6,200 NOK (about US$1,200) worth of books in one evening! Our God is great. He uses simple, apparently insignificant measures to bless us. Let us keep courage and continue pressing on. ●

Magazines distributed as part of the Great Hope Project.

— Mirko Popovic, Senior Distribution Counselor

Norwegian Publishing House is available for smart phones.
Reviving the Publishing Ministry was one of West-Central Africa Division’s (WAD) major accomplishments in 2012. By God’s grace, and with support from union Publishing directors, we held recruitment training in the Sahel Union and West African Union. Through these and other efforts, 110 new literature evangelists (LEs) have joined our army.

### Student Literature Evangelism

One of the strongest arms of the Publishing Ministry in the WAD is the student literature evangelism program. In 2012 a recruitment exercise was conducted in all four churches that own tertiary institutions within the WAD territory. In all, 362 student LEs were recruited. Many students canvassed and earned scholarships. The 2012 summer LE program was exceptionally successful in the Ghana Union. Student LEs delivered literature worth $219,529.

### Leadership Training and Administrative Seminar

Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing director, visited WAD in February 2012 to enhance the performance of our publishing leaders. Faigao conducted Publishing leadership training in two centers: The Ghana Union and the Sahel Union participated at the first session, and the Central African Union, Eastern Nigeria Union, and North-Western Nigeria Union participated at the second session. He also conducted an Administrative Seminar in the North-Western Nigeria Union.

### Publishing seminar at the North-Western Nigeria Union.

### LE Conventions

The Sahel Union organized an LE Convention, January 11–14. From September 12–16 the North-Western Nigeria Union also held an LE Convention. LEs and their leaders took time off to celebrate God’s goodness and recharge their batteries for better performance in the future.

### Evangelism

By God’s grace, our LEs conducted evangelism and baptized souls into God’s kingdom in 2012. Student LEs also participated and won many souls for Christ. As of November 2012, our LEs had baptized 2,609 souls.
Poised for Progress

This year has been filled with many challenges and blessings as we reestablished the Publishing work in the Middle East and North Africa Union (MENAU). MENAU is a newly formed union that serves almost 500 million people in 20 countries, almost all of whom are Muslim. At this point we have a functioning Publishing Department building its team and support structure. Once complete, we will have typists, translators, and designers.

God has been gracious and has given us the strength to accomplish many things for His honor and glory. One of our biggest steps was the formation of a Literature Ministries Oversight Committee, which met for the first time in 2012, which was a real blessing. This committee was established for general oversight of the Publishing Department’s activities and focus each year. We were thankful for the attendance of leaders from the General Conference, Review and Herald Publishing Association, each field in our union, and the Publishing director from the Euro-Asia Division, who was our special invitee. I look forward to this committee’s contribution as we move forward by the grace of God.

Literature Ministries Oversight Committee

Especially for Muslims

The Publishing Department of the General Conference (GC) had wanted for some time to prepare a book specifically for our Muslim friends. We are excited to be working closely with the GC Publishing team in translating, designing, and distributing this book; beginning in three countries of our territory, then spreading out from there. Our focus for the distribution of this book is Egypt, Lebanon, and Algeria. We are also translating it into Turkish. This book has taken some time to come together, but it is well worth it. We have also worked with creative young people who have dedicated their time to make this dream a reality. I praise the Lord for their time, energy, and talent.

Four-year Plan

Our plans for the next four years are extensive but fluid. The goal is to have all our members—from adults to children—understand literature in tract and pamphlet sizes. To do so, we need relevant, up-to-date literature in Arabic, Turkish, Persian, French, and English.

After establishing a broad, free literature program, we will develop a focused literature evangelism program. We will find among those distributing free literature, literature evangelists who will sell our larger, full-message books. The free pamphlets and tracts will lead to a desire for books and magazines that can be sold. Of course, an effective distribution plan requires an effective development plan. This plan is almost established.

We would also like to take advantage of book fairs that take place on a large scale in the Middle East and North Africa. So while we develop the free literature program we can begin selling at large book fairs. Plans are underway to figure out how we can participate in those book fairs. Once we have developed a reputation for good books we would like to open reading rooms and bookstores, including Web-based ones. A fully integrated and interactive Web site is under development and should be functioning by May, a Web site where literature in many different forms can be shared, studied, and talked about safely.
## World Literature Circulation Report
### “Global Leaves Project”

Sharing Ministry — Church Members
2010–2012

### Grand Total

### Missionary Books (MB)

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### Selling Ministry — Literature Evangelists

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Partial Report

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*See Below*